SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Madam Chairperson, a meeting of the State Electricity Ministers was held in the month of January, 1993. During this meeting, certain decisions were arrived at and an Action Plan was drawn up which *inter alia* would help the State Electricity Boards to overcome their financial difficulties. If State Governments implement the suggestions sincerely, I am sure most of the State Electricity Boards will be able to overcome their difficulties.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Is there any monitoring mechanism ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Yes, we are monitoring. In fact, I myself had held a review meeting of all the Electricity Boards in the country.. (*interruptions*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN : That is all right. But the earlier policy has changed.. (*interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Balanandan, I think this is Question Hour.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Madam Chairperson, regarding monitoring I myself had held a review meeting of all the electricity boards in the country in the month of October, 1993 to see what extent the Action Plan has been implemented and we have sent letters on the basis of this review to the State Electricity Boards requesting them to take further steps to see that the functioning of the Electricity Boards is improved during the current financial year itself.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Madam, most of the Electricity Boards in the country are in the red because they are mismanaged and power is underutilised and there is pilferage. I think the hon. Minister is on record saying that the power system in the country should be privatised. I think it is by the end of this century.. (*interruptions*).. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any requests received from private parties in this regard so that it can be better managed ? If there is any scheme before the Government, I want to know by when it will be implemented.. (*interruptions*)..

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Madam, do you want me to answer this question ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I don't know. I did not know what he asked.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Madam, it was because of interruptions. I will repeat my question.

Most of the Electricity Boards in our country are in the red because they are mismanaged.. (*Interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is answering.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Madam, our privatisation programme is only to supplement the existing generating capacity and not to supplant the same. We have absolutely no plans for privatising the State Electricity Boards.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now we will move to the next question.. (*interruptions*)... Question No. 264 ... (*interruptions*)..We have already discussed it at length.

INDUSTRIALISTS OPPOSITION TO GOSWAMI COMMITTEE REPORT

*264. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA† :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that industrialists have opposed the Goswami Committee report on sick industries;

@Previously Starred Question No. 204 transferred from 16-12-93.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

(b) whether Government are considering to implement the recommendations of the Goswami Committee, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to work not any mechanism to wind up sick companies faster; if so, what is the time stipulation therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering to change the definition of Sickness of the companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No formal representation from industrialists has been received in the Ministry of Finance.

(b) to (d) The Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring under Chairmanship of Dr. Omkar Goswami submitted its report in July 1993. The recommendations of the Committee, interalia include :

(i) early detention of sickness,

(ii) changes in the Companies Act, 1956 to facilitate restructuring.

(iii) amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to enable restructuring of the work force,

(iv) amendment of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 to improve generation of internal resources of sick companies,

(v) amendment of taxation laws to facilitate mergers, amalgamations of companies,

(vi) changes in Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 to attract foreign capital and equity,

(vii) empower Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for speedier restructuring, winding up and sale of assets of companies; and

(viii) setting up of five Recovery Tribunals for speedier satisfaction of interests of secured creditors.

The recommendations of the Committee, including change in definition of sickness and mechanism to wind up sick companies, are under consideration of Government. It is difficult to indicate a time frame for the same.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Madam, I asked specifically in my question what the time-frame we are going to fix for finalising the recommendations of the Goswami Committee was. This is a very pertinent question and the answer is given in a very casual manner without taking into consideration the seriousness of the sick industries. They know very well the magnitude of

They know very well the magnitude of the sickness. More than 2,50,000 units are closed and that makes around fifteen per cent of the industrial units. Lakhs of workers are unemployed. More than ten thousand crores of rupees of bank finance has been locked up. This is the situation. And, Madam, the sickness is not a new problem that has come. It is a thing which has been going on and, therefore, they appointed the Goswami Committee which gave its Report six months ago. It has been extensively discussed at various forums and yet the Finance Ministry is not in a position to work out a time-frame. Of course, they observe the Dunkel time-frame ! They don't think our internal problems are very important. Unemployment is a very serious problem. Therefore, may I know

from the honourable Minister as to what his problem is in fixing the tme-frame to finalise the Goswami Committee recommendations and come before Parliament ?

डा. अबरार अहमद : मैडम, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न पूछा और जिस समस्या की तरफ ध्यान दिलाया, उस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस कमेटी को बनाया गया था और कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट दे दी है हमने अपने उत्तर में यह बहुत स्पष्ट कहा है कि इसकी समय सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की जा सकती । जो रिकमेंडेशंस दी गई है उनको अलग-अलग पक्षों से उस संदर्भ में बातचीत भी की जा रही है । उसको दो कनसलाटिव कमेटी में हमने डिसकस किया है और उन पर विचार किया जा रहा है । जब उन पर विचार पूरा हो जाएगा और किसी निष्कर्ष पर पहुंच जाएंगे तो उसके बाद ही समय सीमा बताई जा सकती है । मैंने अपने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में भी इस बात को स्पष्ट लिखा है कि इसकी किसी समय सीमा में नहीं बांधा जा सकता ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put your second supplementary.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, he has answered in the same way.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is the answer he is giving that on the query and worry of the Members this Committee was constituted and that Committee has given its Report. But they have not given any cut-off date for implementing it. They are discussing it. This is what I understand. Now, you put your next supplementary

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Yes, I am putting my next supplementary. I had asked in part (a) of my question whether it is a fact that industrialists have opposed the Goswami Committee Report on sick industries because, as I understood, they were against the definition of sickness and winding up of sick units. Now, according to them, they have not received any formal representation. I have not asked about that. I have just asked whether they know that they are opposing the recommendations of the Goswami Committee Report and, if they are opposing, what their points of opposition are and why they are opposing.

डा. अबरार अहमद : उपसभापति महोदया, वित्त मंत्रालय के पास कोई भी विरोध पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है (**व्यवधान**)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would request the Members to be quiet because I cannot hear the question nor can I hear the Minister's answer.

डा. अबरार अहमद: मैडम, माननीय सदस्य यह जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या उद्योगपति इस गोस्वामी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट का विरोध कर रहे हैं । मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में मैंने कहा है और माननीय सदस्य ने दोबारा उस सवाल को पूछा है तो मैं दोहरा रहा हूं कि वित्त मंत्रालय को किसी भी उद्योगपति का इस संबंध में विरोध पत्र प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। (**व्यवधान**) ।

श्री चिमनभाई मेहता : अखबार तो पढ़ते हैं, मीडिया का रिपोर्ट पढ़ते हैं, दूरदर्शन में भी रिपोर्ट आती है, वह तो आप देखते हैं । अगर टेबल पर रिपोर्ट नहीं आया.... (**व्यवधान**)

डा. अबरार अहमद : यह अखबारों के आधार पर नहीं चलता है (**व्यवधान**)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr Jibon Roy.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, I represent the opposite side of the question represented by Mr. Swamy and Mr. Mehta. The point is that a Committee has been constituted by calling people of excellence, but without the knowledge of industries and industrial sickness, and they have recommended something. And, Madam, they are being pressurized to implement those recommendations. If it is done, then many industries would be wound up. The entire agriculture will be affected. Our Hon. Members should understand it... (*Interruptions*). The Government should understand it. The Members are raising

the question. They should realise that the total implementation of the Goswami Committee Report will mean that tomorrow you will have to wind up the entire fertilizer industry. The entire agriculture sector will be affected. Therefore, Madam, my point is that killing is not the remedy to sickness.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Care and treatment is the remedy, which the Government is not doing. Madam, the thrust of the Goswami Committee Report is requisition. I want to know whether the Finance Ministry will constitute another Committee associating people who know the industry and the trade unions to recomend the viability of the industry. These are my questions.

डा. अबरार अहमद: मैडम, कमेटी के सदस्य उचित प्रकार के थे, या संबंधित थे या नहीं थे, यह बात बिल्कुल आउट आफ काज है। जहां तक सुझाव, क्या माने जायेंगे उसमें से, क्या नहीं माने जायेंगे, कितने माने जायेंगे, आंशिक माने जायेंगे या पूरे माने जायेंगे, तो महोदया, मैंने बहुत स्पष्ट कहा है कि उस रिपोर्ट पर विचार किया जा रहा है। संबंधित अलग-अलग पक्षों से भी बातचीत की जा रही है और किस रूप में कार्यान्वित होगी, कितनी होगी, यह जब तक उस पर विचार पूरा न हो जाये, यह कम से कम आज की तारीख में बताना मुश्किल है। इसलिए मैंने बहुत स्पष्ट कहा कहा कि ..... (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please, Mr. Jibon Roy. I have to remind you that while the Minister is answering, it is impolite to get up and ask. I want to hear. If you are not interested, at least, I am interested.

Mr. Y. Sivaji.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Madam.....

SHRI JIBON RAY : The hon. Minister said that the Coswami Committee Report will be discussed here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will discuss it when we get the time in the House.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Madam, I would like to know whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction said on the 23rd August that the Goswami Committee has adopted rather a myopic view of the concept of industrial sickness and rehabilitation. I would like to know whether the Finance Minister went on record that if the recommendations of the Goswami Committee Report are accepted, 80 per cent of the industry in this country will become sick and, if so, what the feeling is of the Government on the remarks of the BIFR. I want to know whether the Finance Minister holds the same view that if the recommendations are accepted, 80 per cent of industries will become sick and, if so, what steps the Government have proposed to face this situation.

डा. अबरार अहमद : महोदय, सवाल वही है कि क्रियान्वयन के बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है। मैंने बहुत स्पष्ट कहा है कि अभी उसमें जो भी सुझाव दिये गये हैं उन पर विचार किया जा रहा है। अलग अलग पक्षों से बातचीत हो रही है। कंसलटेटिव कमेटी ने भी डिसकस किया है। तो क्रियान्वयन के बारे में अभी विचार चल रहा है। अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question No. 265.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISING PROGRAMMES

*265. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to review its present policy on advertising in the Government media, T.V. and Radio ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that viewership of TV varies according to the time of the programme; and